



Twin Cities Campus

Creative Writing M.F.A.

English Language & Literature

College of Liberal Arts

Link to a [list of faculty](#) for this program.

Contact Information:

Department of English, 222 Lind Hall, 207 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (612-625-6366; fax: 612-624-8228)

Email: creawrit@umn.edu

Website: <http://cla.umn.edu/creative-writing>

- Program Type: Master's
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2019
- Length of program in credits: 45
- This program does not require summer semesters for timely completion.
- Degree: Master of Fine Arts

Along with the program-specific requirements listed below, please read the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website for requirements that apply to all major fields.

The creative writing program in the Department of English offers the master of fine arts (MFA) degree for students committed to pursuing the writing life. This three-year degree provides advanced, graduate-level coursework in writing, language, and literature, as well as study in a related field. The third year of the program focuses on the final development of a book-length manuscript suitable for publication. At the heart of the program are writing workshops in poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction, and courses in the "Reading as Writers" and "Topics in Advanced Writing" series, which enable writers to explore a variety of issues relating to contemporary themes in American and world literature. The program encourages experimentation across genres, fostering the discovery of new and varied forms for a developing voice. Students also have the opportunity to work editorially on "Great River Review," the graduate literary magazine.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Prerequisites for Admission

The preferred undergraduate GPA for admittance to the program is 3.00.

The program does not require a graduate degree for admission.

Special Application Requirements:

The MFA in Creative Writing does not require undergraduate work in English literature or an undergraduate degree in literature. Students come from a variety of educational backgrounds and life experiences. Applicants should be aware, however, that graduate coursework in literature and/or language is required once admitted to the program.

International applicants must submit score(s) from one of the following tests:

- TOEFL
 - Internet Based - Total Score: 79
 - Internet Based - Writing Score: 21
 - Internet Based - Reading Score: 19
 - Paper Based - Total Score: 550
- IELTS
 - Total Score: 6.5
- MELAB
 - Final score: 80

Key to [test abbreviations](#)(TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB).

For an online application or for more information about graduate education admissions, see the [General Information](#) section of the catalog website.



Program Requirements

Plan C: Plan C requires 42 major credits and 3 credits outside the major. There is no final exam. A capstone project is required.

Capstone Project: The capstone project is a publishable thesis manuscript of poetry, fiction, or literary nonfiction. The final exam is an oral defense of the thesis manuscript and literary essay.

This program may be completed with a minor.

Use of 4xxx courses toward program requirements is permitted under certain conditions with adviser approval.

A minimum GPA of 3.00 is required for students to remain in good standing.

At least 2 semesters must be completed before filing a Degree Program Form.

The MFA requires 45 credits distributed over a three-year period, culminating in a book-length manuscript suitable for publication, an MFA literary essay, and an MFA defense.

Required Courses

[ENGW 8101](#) - Reading Across Genres (4.0 cr)

[ENGW 8180](#) - Thesis Seminar: Multi-Genre (4.0 cr)

Take exactly 4 credit(s) from the following:

- [ENGW 8990](#) - MFA Creative Thesis (2.0 - 8.0 cr)

Workshop Electives

Take at least 12 credits from the following:

[ENGW 4205](#) - Screenwriting (3.0 cr)

[ENGW 5102](#) - Graduate Fiction Writing (4.0 cr)

[ENGW 5104](#) - Graduate Poetry Writing (4.0 cr)

[ENGW 5106](#) - Graduate Literary Nonfiction Writing (4.0 cr)

[ENGW 5130](#) - Topics in Graduate Creative Writing (4.0 cr)

[TH 4115](#) - Intermediate Playwriting (3.0 cr)

Creative Writing Electives

Take exactly 4 credit(s) from the following:

- [ENGW 4xxx](#)
- [ENGW 5xxx](#)
- [ENGW 8xxx](#)

Seminar Elective

[ENGW 8110](#) - Seminar: Writing of Fiction (4.0 cr)

or [ENGW 8120](#) - Seminar: Writing of Poetry (4.0 cr)

or [ENGW 8130](#) - Seminar: Writing of Literary Nonfiction (4.0 cr)

Literature Language Electives

Take 3 or more credit(s) from the following:

- [ENGL 5xxx](#)
- [ENGL 8xxx](#)

Other Literature Language Electives

Take 7 or more credit(s) from the following:

• [ENGW 5310](#) - Reading as Writers (4.0 cr)

• [ENGW 5130](#) - Topics in Graduate Creative Writing (4.0 cr)

• [ENGW 8110](#) - Seminar: Writing of Fiction (4.0 cr)

• [ENGW 8120](#) - Seminar: Writing of Poetry (4.0 cr)

• [ENGW 8130](#) - Seminar: Writing of Literary Nonfiction (4.0 cr)

• [ENGL 5xxx](#)

• [ENGL 8xxx](#)

• [ENGL 5701](#) - Great River Review (4.0 cr)

or [ENGW 5701](#) - Great River Review (4.0 cr)

• Student can also use extra-departmental or foreign literature courses to fulfill this requirement. Courses are selected in consultation with the student's adviser and the Director of Graduate Studies.

Outside the Major or in a Supporting Program

Any graduate level course for 3 credits outside the English Department (not [ENGW](#) or [ENGL](#)).